

REMARKS

The present amendment adds reference to the priority applications to the specification and provides an Abstract of the Disclosure on a clean sheet. The claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependency prior to examination. No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: Richard A. Steinberg
Richard A. Steinberg
Registration No. 26,588
Direct No. (703) 905-2039

Paul L. Sharer
Registration No. 36,004
Direct No. (703) 905-2180

1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22101
(703) 905-2000 Telephone
(703) 905-2500 Facsimile

Date: September 26, 2003